

CLAIMS:

1. A table saw comprising:

a frame including a table defining a work surface;

5 a rotatable blade coupled to the frame and extendable up through the work surface;

an adjustment mechanism configured to selectively raise and lower the blade relative to the table;

a brake mechanism configured to engage and stop the blade; and

10 a brake positioning system configured to adjust the position of the brake mechanism to maintain the brake mechanism in an operative position relative to the blade as the blade is raised and lowered, where the brake positioning system includes a positioning member configured to maintain the brake mechanism adjacent the blade.

15 2. The table saw of claim 1, where the blade is mounted on an arbor, and where the positioning member is elongate with one end mounted to the arbor and the other end coupled to the brake mechanism.

20 3. The table saw of claim 2, where the positioning member is configured to pivot around the arbor.

4. The table saw of claim 3, where the positioning member pivots around the arbor and the brake mechanism moves around the perimeter of the blade when the blade is raised and lowered

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5. The table saw of claim 1, where the brake positioning system is configured to move the brake mechanism around the perimeter of the blade when the blade is raised and lowered.

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6. The table saw of claim 1, further comprising a subframe holding the blade and the adjustment mechanism relative to the table; and a support coupled between the positioning member and the subframe.

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7. The table saw of claim 6, where the support is a brace.

8. The table saw of claim 7, where the brace is elongate and extends between
20 the positioning member and the subframe.

9. The table saw of claim 8, where the brace is pivotally coupled to the subframe.

5 10. The table saw of claim 6, where the support is a rack assembly.

11. The table saw of claim 10, where the rack assembly is mounted on the subframe, and where the positioning member is coupled to the rack assembly.

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12. The table saw of claim 1, further comprising a detection system configured to detect contact between a person and the blade, and where the brake mechanism is configured to engage and stop the blade upon detection of contact between the person and the blade.

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13. The table saw of claim 1, where the table has a front and a back, where the blade has a front and a back corresponding to the portion of the blade adjacent the front and the back of the table, and where the brake mechanism is adjacent the back of the blade.

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14. The table saw of claim 13, where the brake mechanism being adjacent the back of the blade tends to cause the blade to move at least slightly downward relative to the table when the brake mechanism engages the blade.

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15. A table saw comprising:

a frame including a table defining a work surface;

a rotatable blade coupled to the frame and extendable up through the work surface;

an adjustment mechanism configured to selectively raise and lower the blade relative to the table;

a brake mechanism configured to engage and stop the blade; and

a brake positioning system configured to maintain the brake mechanism in a constant orientation adjacent the perimeter of the blade as the blade is raised and lowered.

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16. The table saw of claim 15 where the brake positioning system is configured to prevent the brake mechanism from raising and lowering relative to the table when the blade is raised and lowered.

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17. A table saw comprising:

a frame including a table defining a work surface;

a rotatable blade coupled to the frame and extendable up through the work surface;

5 an adjustment mechanism configured to adjust the position of the blade relative to the table;

a detection system configured to detect contact between a person and the blade;

a brake mechanism configured to engage and stop the blade upon detection of contact between the person and the blade; and

10 brake positioning means for maintaining the brake mechanism in an operative position relative to the blade as the position of the blade is adjusted.